

8.
The Famous and Renowned

HISTOARY

OF THE

Seven Wise Mistresses

OF

ROME.

Wherein

The Treachery of Evil Ministers
is discovered, Innocency cleared,
and the Wisdom of the Seven
Wise Mistresses displayed.



Printed and Sold in Aldermary Church-yard, London.



THE
Seven Wise MISTRESSES.



CHAP. I.

How the Empress Lucretia committed her Daughter Sabrina to the Care of the Seven Wise Mistresses to be instructed, How the Mistresses consulted the Stars about the young Princess's Welfare. How she was received by her Mother upon her Return from her Studies; and how she behaved herself.

IN the City of Rome once reigned a vertuous and renowned Empress, named Lucretia, who, with the Advice of her Council, married a rich and glorious Prince; by whom she conceived, and bore a Daughter named Sabrina.

This young Princess, as she advanced in Years, grew in Beauty, Virtue, and all the Qualities of Mind and Body, which are necessary to make an accomplish'd Lady, insomuch that she was the Delight of all that saw her, and especially of her Parents, who looked on her as the chief Jewel of their Crown.

It happen'd when Sabrina was about six Years of Age, that a Province in her Father's Dominions rebell'd against their Sovereign: to suppress which the King assembled with all Speed a mighty Army, and march'd towards the Rebels; but the Weather proving unseasonable he happen'd

to catch cold, which threw him into such a violent Fever that he soon after died.

Soon after the Funeral Obsequies, the Empress, by the Advice of the Council, committed the Care of her Daughter to Seven Wise Mistresses, most expert in Wisdom, and resolving all Manner of Questions, and who, for their great Skill and Learning, excelled all Women in the World.

The Wise Mistresses, transported with Joy, gladly undertook the Charge; and returning to the Empress, received the young Princess Sabrina, and conducted her to the noble Palace.

The Mistresses used their best Skill and Diligence in attending the young Lady for the Space of Seven Years; which being expired, they appointed a Day to try her Experience in what she had learnt; which being come, they put the three following Questions to her.

1st. What is the most acceptable Thing to God? She answer'd. To obey willingly all his most holy Commands. 2dly. What is it gives the greatest Pleasure and Satisfaction to the Soul of Man? She said, The Answer of a good Conscience. 3dly. What Knowledge made Women wisest? She reply'd, The Knowledge of Good from Evil.

The Wise Mistresses hearing these acute Answers, were of Opinion, That the Princess would for Wisdom be famous, and excel her Progenitors.

The Mistresses having receiving an Order from the Empress to bring her Daughter to Court, they retired into the Garden, to view the Heavens, and with the utmost Skill consulted the Aspects of the Planets, to know if their Journey to the Court will be fortunate or no: But observing a great Contention among the Signs, they foresaw that when they presented the young Lady, if she should answer any more Words than One, her Enemies would have Power over her, to betray her to a most shameful Death; so they were very much troubled all the Day, and in the Evening came down the Lady Sabrina, to divert herself in the Garden, but perceiving the Seven Wise Mistresses very sad, she demanded the Cause of it? They answer'd, O Madam! this Morning we received a Letter

from the Empress, commanding us to conduct you to Court; but having consulted the Stars, we plainly foresee that your Journey will prove fatal to you, if for the Space of Seven Days you speak any more Words than one, which is Justice: And this is what grieves us, to reduce you to such a Hazard, after we have had such Success in your Education.

The young Princess then viewed the Firmament herself, observed the Motions of the Stars, and found their Sayings true; but said, if you will follow my Advice I question not but I shall be able to bring you off (and myself likewise) with Honour. The Mistresses promising to be directed by her, she said, I shall be accused by a Wicked Person, but if you Seven will severally speak for me to my Mother the Empress, each Day one, till the seven fatal Days will be over, then I may speak for myself, and defend my Innocence.

The Mistresses unanimously approv'd her Proposals; and when they were alone, with great Joy they said, What a Happiness is it for us to educate this ingenious Lady, whose Fame and Wisdom will one Day make her the greatest Empress in the World?

The Day appointed by the Empress being come, they cloath'd the Princess in Cloth of Gold, deck'd her with rich Ornaments, and provided a Chariot drawn by six white Steeds, and so in a magnificent Manner, attended by a Train of pure Virgins, she directed her Course towards the Empress's Court.

As soon as the Empress met her, she took her into her own Chariot, and clasping her into her Arms, kissed her, saying, O my dear Daughter, the only Delight I have in the World, whom God preserve for future Blessings, how is it with you? Now I hope you are fitly qualified by Learning to sit in my Throne after me, and govern with Glory and Honour the People which will be committed unto your Charge. The Empress hoping her Daughter would make a Pertinent Answer, according to the great Wisdom she had heard she was endowed with, was surprized at her making no Answer, for fear some Disaster had befallen her; and then sometimes she imagined, that having

been so many Years learning other Languages, she might forget her own ; with a great many other Imaginations that Fear and Fancy suggested to her : But being willing to make her speak, she demanded, What she had learnt in so many Years with the Wise Mistresses ? she answered Justice ; so bowed herself and spake not a Word more.

Then the Empress acquainted her Lords what Condition her Daughter was in, and said, The Mistresses should die the most shameful Death that could be thought of : But being willing once more to try her, when she came to the Palace, she took her by the Hand, and led her into the Garden, and placed her by her in the Arbour, and said, My Dear Daughtee, Here is Pen, Ink, and Paper, if you will not speak, write the Reason of your Silence. The Princess taking the Pen in her Hand, wrote these Lines.

Through Learning, which doth me adorn,

I very plainly see,

The Stars where under I was born

Prove hazardous to me.

And I in bed have lately dream'd

What shortly will ensue ;

I Seven Times shall be condemn'd

In Judgment Seat by you.

When the Empress read these Lines, she was astonish'd, and being exceedingly troubled to think that she should give Judgment seven times against her own Daughter, she wrung her Hands and lamented greatly.



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C H A P. II.

How Radamentus, who was chafe by the Empress to be her Assistant in the Government, endeavoured to debauch Sabrina; and how, being repulsed by her, he conspired to take away her Life.

THE Empress having assembled the Princes of the Land, and all the Nobility, to elect a Grand Counsel expert in the Laws and Customs of the Empire, to assist in all temporal Affairs, chose one Radamentus, a wise and crafty Politician, and one whom the Empress reposed great Confidence in, so that whatever he contrived or proposed, she was ready to sign. This Radamentus being thus placed at the Head of the Affairs of the Empire, he grew baughty, and ambitious of more Honour; and thinking to himself that the Empress was weak and sickly, and that 'twas probable she could not live long, nothing less could satisfy his Ambition, than the Hopes of making himself Emperor after her Decease; And therefore he contrived a Way to take away the Life of Sabrina, by accusing her of Adultery, which, by the Laws of the Country, was punished with Death without Mercy.

One Day Radamentus being at his Chamber Window, espied the Princess walking all alone in the Garden, having left the Key in the Door, where upon going down he came to the Lady on a sudden, as she was contemplating under a Tree. The Princess startled at the unexpected Presence of Radamentus, began to blush; so that there appear'd in her Face such a crimson Tincture, that the Malice of Radamentus was turn'd into a great Love for her; which he thus declared to her.

Most Lovely Lady, give me Leave to tell you that the first Time I saw you, your Beauty kindled a Fire within my Breast, and now the Sight of you confirms the same, which nothing can allay, except you vouchsafe me the Favour to sleep with you upon this Bed of Roses, and repose ourselves in the Bosom of Love.

The Royal Princes turning about, with a scornful Gesture, gave a Repulse to his lascivious Request, which torn'd his Love to such Fury, that running out of the Garden, he cry'd out, That he saw the Princess with a Man under a Fig Tree, committing the foul Sin of Fornication, to the Breach of the Law, the Shame of her Parents, and the Destruction of her own Soul.

The Empress hearing this, was struck with Horror and Amazement, but having recovered herself, she thus expostulated : How unhappy am I in such a Daughter, who in the first Place was delivered to me Speechless, when I expected her to be perfected in the Knowledge of Arts and Sciences ; and now, when I hop'd she was adorn'd with Virtue, she is given up to Vice ! Would to God the Day of her Birth had been the Day of her Burial.

Thus the Empress believ'd all that the wicked Consul had reported : The Nobles that were present ask'd where he saw this ? He answered, under a Fig-Tree ; but (said he) the Man, when he perceiv'd me, ran away. Then the Nobles hasted into the Garden, and finding the Princess walking by herself, they ask'd what Man had been there with her. She answer'd nothing. Then the Empress seeing she was in the Garden, as Radamentus had reported, believ'd all he said, and so in a great Rage commanded her to be burnt at a Stake.



C H A P. III.

How Sabrina, being led to the Place of Execution, was delivered from Death by the Eloquence of the first Wise Mistress.

WHEN the Day appointed for the Execution of the Beautiful Sabrina was come, the Empress commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt; and as she was lead through the City cloathed in white Lawn, the Trumpets sounding her doleful Funeral, the People ran out and weeped, crying, Alas ! Alas ! the only Daughter of the Empress is leading to Death.

Then came Halicuja, the first Mistress, to whom the young Lady bowed her Head, as if she had said Remember me when you come before my Mother. When she came to the Court the Empress said, with a stern Countenance, thou ungrateful and vile Woman, how hast thou tutor'd my Child ? I delivered her to thee vertuous and hopeful, but thou hast returned her the wickedest Creature in the World ; for which thou shalt die a cruel Death.

Then said the Mistress, Gracious Lady, the Divine Powers know that she is not speechless without a good Cause ; but as for the Sin of Fornication, we can all safely testify, that, for the Space of seven Years we never saw the least Wickedness by her, either in Thought, Word, or Deed : And if you put her to Death, only for the Accusation of Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did to the Queen of Syria, who poison'd her Husband thro' the Persuasion of one wicked Person.

The Empress desiring to hear this Story, the Mistress said, the Princess might be dead before she made an End ; but if she would recall her 'till she had done, she would declare it. The Empress consenting, and committing the Princess to Prison, the Mistress began as follows.

IN the Kingdom of Syria reign'd a Queen of great Renown, and of such excellent Beauty, that many Kings and Princes came to court her, each hoping she should be his. This Queen delighting much to see Jousts and Tournaments, a Day was appointed for every one to shew his Valour before her.

But among all the Candidates, there was none to be compared for Beauty and Valour to Darius King of Parthia; who perform'd such gallant Actions, overcoming all the Kings and Princes that were there, which so pleased the Queen, that she caused the Trumpets and Drums to welcome him from the Field, and the Trophies of his Victory to be carried before him, and the next Day sent for him to the Palace; where being arrived, he modestly kneeled before the Queen, and offered to kiss her Hand. The Queen being charm'd with his good Behaviour, saluted him with her Lips; and giving him further Encouragement, they grew so intimate that in a while she took him for her Husband, making him joint King of Syria with her, to the great Joy of her Subjects; to whom he behaved himself with such Clemency and Justice, that he was lov'd of all. The Queen for her Part lov'd the King so well, he mutually returning her Affection, that there never was a happier Pair.

They had not been long married, when a Letter came from the King of Parthia, his Father, who lay upon his Death-Bed, enjoyning him to come with all Speed to him, that he might take Possession of the Kingdom of Parthia after his Decease.

While the King was gone, an evil Counsellor in his Court, being in Love with the Queen, intercepted all the King's Letters, and inform'd the Queen, that he had marry'd another Lady in his own Country, which rais'd such Jealousy in her, that she tore the Ornaments off her Head, wringing her Hands, saying, Oh! my dear Lord! wherein have I offended you, that another should reap the Consolation of your Love. The King in the mean Time wondered he received no Letter from the Queen, likewise lamented, saying, Oh! my dear Lady! what is

the Reason I can never hear how you do, nor how the Affairs of your Kingdom stand.

All this while the wicked Counsellor intercepted their Letters on both sides, and at last invented a strong Poison, telling the Queen it was of such Virtue, that if she would cause a Ring to be made hollow, and put a little of this in it, and send it to the King as a Token, 'twould cause him to forsake all other Women, and haste home to her.

The Queen believing this wicked Counsellor, was very glad, and, without the Advice of any other, caused a Ring to be made, as he had said, and put therein the Poison, and sent it away to her Husband. When the Messenger came before him, he presented the Ring to him. The harmless King joyfully put it on, saying, 'twas the most welcome Present he ever received : But soon after, his Finger, beginning to swell, he sent for his Physicians, who said, it was venom'd with the strongest Poison in the World, and he must cut it off, else 'twould infect his whole Body. Then the King said cut it off ; which accordingly was done ; then his Arm began to swell, and in the like manner that was cut off to preserve his Life. But the good King finding the Poison begin to infect the other Parts of his Body, he thus exclaimed against the Queen.

O thou ungrateful Woman ! why hast thou done thus to him who loved thee equal to his own Soul ? thou hast done that by Poison, which the stoutest Champion could not effect by Arms ! how could'st thou return infectious Poison for the most ardent Love ! must I that have won the greatest Glory that ever come to Syria, at last be basely conquer'd by the treacherous Force of Poison, and the wicked Arts of a perfidious Wife ? --- O ungrateful Woman ! what hast thou gained but the Reproach of all Nations, and the Curses of good People ! --- And saying this, he sunk down in his Chair, and died.

Then the Messenger hasted home, and told the Queen what had happened, and that all the Counsellor had told her of the King was false. At which the Queen fell a weeping and wringing her Hands, saying, O what have I done ! what have I done ! I have by the Advice of an evil Counsellor slain my dear Husband the King ! O cur-

fed Traytor! would to God I had never followed thy wicked Counsel! But this Hand that first received the cursed Ring, shall put an End to this miserable Life? And so taking a Knife, she thrust it into her Breast, and instantly expired.

Then said the Mistress, Understand you, Madam, what I have said? Yes, very well, answer'd the Empress, you have shewed me a good Example; without doubt this Day my Daughter shall not die; this was one of the wickedest Counsellors that ever liv'd. Then you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughter's Life this Day for my sake.



C H A P. IV.

How, by the Advice of Radamentus, the Empress a second Time ordered her Daughter to be burnt; and how the second Wife Mistress obtained a Stay of Execution.

WHEN Radamentus understood the Princess was repriev'd, he pretended great Grief; which determined the Empress to order her for Execution, but was prevented by the second Wife Mistress, who told her the following Story.

A certain Lady of Barbary and her Husband having undertaken a long Voyage, it happened that the Wind proving boisterous and contrary, they were forced to be a tedious while at Sea, so that all their Provision was spent; and having continued without Food, 'till Nature could subsist no longer, they threw Dice who should be killed first to feed the rest; so they eat one another in order as they began, 'till all were eat except this Lady and her Husband, whom pure Love hindred from eating each other. At last having eat all they had to subsist upon, they resolved to die together, and so sewed themselves in one Carpet, and laid them down upon the Deck, saying, The Great God of Heaven and Earth assist us. By the Time they were lull'd asleep by the rocking of the Waves, there

chanced to come upon the Deck a great Griffin, (that is half an Eagle, and half a Lion, so that it is neither Bird nor Beast, but a creature as strong as a Horse, that can fly) and took up the Carpet in her Claws, with the Lady and her Husband, as a Prey for her young Ones, and carried them into a strange Island, inhabited by Lions, Bears, Wolves, and such Beasts. When the Griffin had brought them into his Den, he and his young began to peck the Carpet, which wakened the Lady and her Husband, who being a stout Hero, opened the Carpet and espy'd Land; and having his Sword with him, fought desperately with the Griffin, and slew him and all his young. But not knowing how to get off of this Island, they wandered up and down till the Man died, and then the poor Lady was left alone, and comforted by none but God above. It happened on a time, as this Lady was wandering about the Wilderness, she chanced to meet a mighty He-Lion, whose roaring seemed to her like Claps of Thunder, at whose Sight she fell to the Ground, saying, O Great Jehovah! who holdeth the power of all Creatures in thy Hands, have mercy on me. And as she drew near unto him, she discovered that he halted and groaned, as though he wanted help; so she ventured to him, and looking in his Foot, which he held patiently up, found therein a great Thorn, which she drew out: This done the Lion fawned upon her, and licked her, and shewed a great Love and Kindness to her, leading her to his Den, where she continued a long Season, tending upon nothing but the Prey of the Lion brought her: and which way soever she walked the Lion would attend her, and preserve her from all savage Beasts.

When she returned to Barbary, she brought her Lion with her to her Father's House; who received her very kindly. In a little Time after the Knight was attacked by a wild Boar, which was kill'd by the Lion: But the Steward reporting that the Lion had kill'd his Master, he was slain by the Servants.

The Empress hearing this, said my Daughter shall not die, for this Example you have shewed me of such Advice.

C H A P. V.

How the Princess was a third Time deliver'd from Death.

R Adaméntus a third Time obtain'd an Order for the Princess's Execution, which was prevented by the third Wife Mistress, in delivering the following Relation.

A Knight travelling in a Foreign Country, lost his Way in a Wood ; and was met by a Countryman, who had him to his Cottage, where he lay that Night. About Midnight the Countryman's Wife was deliver'd of a fine Boy, and the Knight consulting the Stars, found that the Child's Fortune was to be hanged. The next Morning the Knight named the Child, and departed to his own Country.

In Process of Time, it happen'd that the Boy taking it into his Head to travel, came to his Godfather's House, where by Degrees he was advanced to be his Steward ; but being envied by the rest of the Servants, they resolv'd upon his Destruction. Accordingly having obtained his Master's Leave to see his own Country, the Baker and Brewer put a large gilt Bowl into his Portmanteau ; which the Knight missing, was inform'd that the Steward had got it ; whereupon he rode after him, and found it upon him. He was order'd for Execution ; and as they were leading him to the Gallows, he said Well, now I perceive that Fate is Fate, let the World go how it will ; which his Master hearing, asked him, what he meant ? He answer'd, When my Mother was in travail of me, there was a strange Knight lodged in the House, and fore-saw my Destiny by his Skill in Astrology, and at the Request of my Father he was my Godfather ; and writ in a little Piece of Parchment my sad Fate in these Words following : — My good Child, serve God, and pray to him continually to pass this Fate over thee, else thy Fortune is to be hanged ; and sealing it up in Wax he tied it

with a Silk String, and put it about my Neck, charging my Father, that no one should read it, 'till I was capable of reading it myself, wherefore I betook myself to travail ; and tho' I obeyed the Words in praying continually to God to escape it, I see it doth notwithstanding follow me undeservedly as you now behold.

The Knight hearing this, demanded to see the Writing. The young Man taking the String from his Neck, gave it to him ; who no sooner beheld it, but he said, O the Mercy of the Servants is incomprehensible ! This is my own Hand-Writing ; I writ thy Destiny, I am thy God-father : And now I will examine the Cause better.

Then calling the two false Accusers before him, he closely and strictly examined each of them, who at last confest that they stole the Cup, and put it in his Portman-tead, for which they were both hanged, and the young Man saved.

The Emprress said, you have shewed me a good Example, therefore my Daughter shall not die.



C H A P. VI.

The Princess again delivered from Death.

THE fourth Wise Mistress understanding that the Princess was again order'd to be burnt, told the Empress a Story to the following Effect.

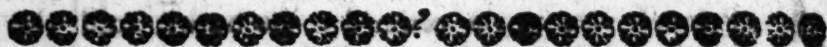
In Thrace reigned Queen Hecuba, who was wise and peaceable, but the King of Lycia brought against her a numerous Army, and besieged her Chief City. The Enemy were several times repulsed by the Garrison, but two wicked Ministers, named Athenor and Æneas, persuaded the Queen to make Peace with the Enemy, to give them ten thousand Pounds, and ten thousand Measures of Wheat, and she also consented that a Wooden Horse should be brought into the Temple of Minerva, which was contrived so as to hold a thousand Men.

The Day being accordingly set, and every Thing ready, they drew the Wooden Horse into the City, and placed it in the Temple; and the next Day drew off from the City. The Citizens believing they were in a full March towards their own Country, being before much fatigued, made great Rejoycing, and afterwards with great Security took their Repose.

But about Midnight, when all were dead asleep, Athenor went to the Wooden Horse, and called forth the Thousand armed Men, and Æneas went upon the back Tower, and held up a blazing Torch to give Intelligence to the Enemy; who came and entered the Town, so that all the Streets were instantly full. Then the Bloody Traytors, Athenor and Æneas, shewed them their Houses and Possessions, never expressing the least Regard for the innocent Queen, who had a fair and beautiful Daughter named Prolixene; whom the wicked Athenor would have ravished some Time before the Siege, and she resisting, made him effect her utter Destruction.

The Queen and her Daughter were put to Death in a barbarous Manner, the Inhabitants massacred, the City burnt to Ashes, and the Barbarians returned to their own Country.

The Mistress having ended her Story, the Empress said her Daughter should not die, for the Sake of this Example of following bad Advice.



C H A P. VII.

The fifth Wise Mistress' Story.

NOtwithstanding the former Relations, the Empress was prevailed on by her Favourite Radamentus to order her Daughter to be executed, but was prevented by the fifth Wise Mistress, who told the following Story.

In China reigned a virtuous Queen, who married a Great Eastern King, by whom she grew with Child. The King being oblig'd to go into his own County to suppress a rude Multitude, was there inform'd by Letters from a favourite Counsellor that his Queen was familiar with a Nobleman in the Court, on which she was clapt into Prison, where she was deliver'd of a comely Girl, who as soon as born, was put into a little Boat, and turn'd out to Sea, where it was taken up by a Shepherd, who bred the Girl to keep Sheep, and set her upon the Mountains; where one Day the King her Father chanced to be hunting, and enquiring of the Shepherd how he came by that Child, he told him that he found her by the Sea Side, and brought her up as his own. The King found, by the Shepherd's Relation, that the Child was his own Child, he took her home, and cloathed her in a most splendid Garb; and consulting the Oracle about it, receiv'd for Answer, that the Queen was innocent, the Child lawfully begotten, and his Counsellor a Traytor. He immediately sent for the Queen out of Prison, but she was dead. He then order'd the Counsellor to be torn to Pieces by wild Horses, and

his Quarters to be thrown to the Beasts of the Field and Fowls of the Air.

For this Example, says the Empress, my Daughter shall not die.



CHAP VIII.

The sixth Mistress's Story.

Again was the beautiful Princess Sabrina order'd to be burnt; but repriev'd on the sixth Wise Mistress's telling the Empress the following Story.

In Burgundy lived a fair Widow Princess, who had a beautiful Daughter. It chanced, that Brutus, a Knight of Malta, charmed the Widow with his Jufts and Tournaments, which she much delighted in, and fell passionately in Love with the Knight, who took his Leave and returned into his own Country, promising to come again soon after. The Time being elapsed, the Princess was told by an old Counsellor, that the Knight was offended at an old favourite Hound and Parrot she kept, which were ordered to be killed. The Knight returned, and then stayed a Month, and went home again, promising soon to return. But the Time being elapsed, the same old Counsellor told the Empress that the Knight was more in Love with her Daughter than her, and that her Daughter was conspiring her Death. On which the Princess order'd her Daughter to be sacrificed to Apollo; but just as the Executioner was going to perform his Office, the Knight rushed in, and prevented it; and accusing the old Counsellor of Treachery, he was hang'd.

For this Example said the Empress, my Daughter shall not die.

C H A P. IX.

The seventh Mistress's Story.

THere was a certain rich Widow, who had an only Daughter, the sole Heiress of all her large Possessions. An old Priest, whom she chose to be her Assistant, pretended Courtship to the Widow, and so far overcame her, that by Promises of Marriage, she disinherited her Daughter, and at last made all her Estate over to him; who refusing to perform his Promises, the Widow stabb'd herself with a Knife and died, and the Daughter being turned out of Doors by the treacherous Priest, ran distracted, and perish'd in the publick Field.

The Empress thanked the Mistress for this Example, and pardoned her Daughter; who having now undergone the Silence imposed upon her, was at full Liberty to make use of her Speech.



C H A P. X.

How the Princess Sabrina defended herself, and complained of Radamentus.

SOON after, all the seven Mistresses consulted in what Manner they should attend the Princess to the Palace; who being present, said, Take no Care what I shall say, for I am provided already. This rejoic'd them all: And they cloathed her in Cloth of Gold; and when the Time drew nigh, put her in a stately Chariot, drawn by six Milk white Steeds; themselves riding in Coaches before the Chariot, with the Roman Banners, and all Sorts of Musick playing.

The Empress hearing the Melody, came out to meet them, and as soon as the Princess saw her, she fell upon her Knees, and said, Hail! my most dear and most Honoured Mother!

Overjoy'd to hear her speak, the Empress embraced her in her Arms, and kissed her; and having conducted her into the Palace, the Princess began to declare, How Radamentus had attempted to seduce her in the Garden, which not being able to effect, he had accus'd her of committing Fornication with a strange Man under a Fig-Tree; concluding, That what had made her under that wicked Charge more unhappy, was, That by her Knowledge in the Stars, foreseeing that if she spoke any more than one Word within the Space of seven Days, she should die a shameful Death, she durst not open her own Vindication.

The Princess then accused Radamentus of committing Fornication with a pretended Gentleman of his Bed-Chamber, who being brought, and the Princess insisting to have his Sex examined, confessed himself a Woman.

Radamentus remaining silent and in Confusion, the Empress turning to him, full of Indignation, said, Wicked wretch! Was not thy Concubine sufficient to satisfy

thy depraved Appetite, that thou must attempt to de-
bauch my only Daughter.

Then Radamentus fell to the Ground, and begg'd Par-
don ; but the Empress said, O ungrateful Traytor ; thou
implorest Mercy, but thou shalt find none ; for the Ri-
gour of the Law shall be executed upon thee to a shameful
Death, as thou hast deserved. Then turning to the Prin-
cess, My dear Daughter, said she, I am entirely convin-
ced of thy Innocence.



C H A P. XI.

How the Empress resigned her Dignity, and caused her Daughter Sabrina to be crowned Empress.

THE Princess Sabrina having assured the Empress of her inviolable Duty and Obedience, the Execution of Radamentus was suspended ; and, for his greater Mortification, the Empress resign'd the Dignity to her Daughter, who was crowned Empress, with the greatest Solemnity and Magnificence imaginable ; all the Nobles and Magistrates having taken the usual Oaths, the Empress, in the Presence of them all, thus harangu'd her Mother.

Most Honoured Mother,

NOtwithstanding it hath been your most gracious Will and Pleasure to confer upon me the Imperial Dignity, before your Majesty's Decease, which my Ambition never aspir'd to ; Yet ever dear and Honoured Madam, the Name and Authority shall not depart from you while you live.

I will take upon me, Madam, to determine all Affairs of Difficulty and Trouble, that I may ease your Majesty of the Burthen of a Crown ; but You shall have the Glory and Honour of it : And I shall ever think it my Duty to respect and obey your Sacred Imperial Majesty both as my Sovereign, and my Mother.

These Expressions were received with Applause by the Nobles, and the Acclamations of all the People, among whom nothing was heard but joyful Shouts of, Long live the Empress Sabrina.



C H A P. XII.

How Radamentus and his Concubine were sentenced to Death, and accordingly executed.

WHen the Solemnity of the Coronation was thus over, the New Empress assembled all her Judges and Counsellors in the Judgement-Hall; where being set in her Imperial Robes, together with her Mother upon the Throne, Radamentus and his Concubine were led into the Hall to the Bar of Justice; and where he pleaded the great Merit of his former Services, viz. That he had concluded a Peace with the King of Gaul; twice with the King of Naples, and once with the Emperor of Greece. In which Services, having always, as he said, proved himself a faithful Minister, he implored the Mercy of the Empress and the Court; or that he might be only banished, or imprisoned during Life. But the young Empress rejected all his Prayers, and insisting that the Traytor might be made an Example to Posterity, the Judges, after Consultation, said to Radamentus,

As to the Services by you pleaded, granting them to be faithfully performed, you have not done more than you were obliged to by your Duty as a Subject, and by the great Trust our most gracious Sovereign reposed in you: Besides it was very requisite that you should recommend yourself by some faithful Services to her Majesty's Esteem, to be the better able to bring about your hellish Conspiracies and wicked Treasons against the best of Mistresses: The Court therefore can afford no Merit to you from any of your past Actions; at least, none sufficient to withhold the Hand of Justice, and to balance the most horrid Crimes you stand convicted of; they therefore unanimously find themselves obliged to pronounce upon you and your Concubine, who has been accessory to all your Treasons, the following Sentence.

That you shall both be taken away from this Place to the Place from whence you came, and from thence be drawn at two Horses Tails, through the City, to the Place of Execution; and there under the common Gallows be consum'd to Ashes.

This Sentence being pronounc'd, the Court broke up, and the Criminals were carried to the Prison from whence they were brought; and seven Days after were both tied to Horses Tails, and so dragged throught the Streets, where Multitudes of People flock'd to see them, every one rejoicing and crying out, Behold the Traytors! Behold the horrid Traytors!



C H A P. XIII.

The Death of the old Empress. And the Marriage of Sabrina to the King of Germany.

THE new Empress having thus out-liv'd her mortal Enemy, began a most happy and glorious Reign; and by her affectionate Duty to her Mother, her impartial Administration of Justice, her facetious Temper, and her great Wisdom and Penetration, she attracted the Admiration and Love of every one.

Her Mother lived to observe, with the utmost Pleasure and Satisfaction, her Daughter admir'd and fear'd over all the neighbouring Nations for her Wit and Beauty; and that every Day usher'd in for her something more glorious then the preceding; and then in the Midst of a flourishing Peace she dy'd, leaving her beloved Sabrina sole Empress of the Roman Empire.

Some Time after the Empress Sabrina was courted and obtained in Marriage by Alexander, King of Germany, who left his own County to live with his beloved Empress at Rome; where he had not lived long, till he heard of

his Kingdom being invaded by the numerous Armies of the King of Macedonia, which following their Victories, soon ran over all Germany and Italy, and being on their March to besiege the City of Rome, this Royal Pair, and their two Sons, with all Things necessary for their Honourable Subsistence, retired into a remote Island, attended by three tributary Kings, and the seven famous Mistresses, who having shar'd in their Prosperity, would not leave them in their Adversity; and there pass'd the Remainder of their Days in a quiet and peaceable Retirement from all the Cares of human Life; and on their Tomb was engraved the following

E P I T A P H.

*Within this House of Stone entomb'd lies,
The King of Germany, surnam'd The Wise;
With the great Roman Empress, his dear Wife;
The chiefest Earthly Blessing of his Life,
Whom Macedonia's King, in wrongful Fight,
Deprived of their Countries, Crowns, and
Right.
But now they do enjoy a Heavenly Crown,
That cannot fade, where Tyrants never come.*

F I N I S.